

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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SERVING THE CATTLE
INDUSTRY SINCE 1917



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September 9, 2003

TO: California Livestock Auction Yard Owners

FR: Benjamin L. Higgins, Executive Vice President

RE: **Trichomonosis Regulations Effective September 21, 2003**

Bovine trichomonosis (a.k.a. trichomoniasis) is a significant cause of economic loss in cattle operations that use natural service. This venereal disease is caused by a protozoan organism called *Tritrichomonas foetus*, and can cause early abortions, pus-filled uteruses, and extremely long breeding seasons. Surveys conducted in California beef cattle operations have shown that more than fifteen percent of herds have at least one infected bull.

In response to the serious threat of trichomonosis, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and Western United Dairymen jointly sponsored AB 1782, allowing the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to develop, in consultation with the livestock industry, programs to prevent and control cattle diseases, including trichomonosis. Upon passage of AB 1782, a subcommittee of the CCA Cattle Health Committee created the draft California Bovine Trichomonosis Control Program, which was then converted by CDFA into the enclosed regulations, which will take effect September 21, 2003. Section 820.3(c) of these regulations states the following:

Public saleyards shall post a sign or notice at least 11" x 14" in a prominent place containing the following statement: "Any buyer of a bull not accompanied by a negative official test record for trichomonosis should assume the bull to be an infected carrier of trichomonosis" or post a sign as provided by the Department.

Failure to comply with this requirement or other provisions within these regulations constitutes a violation punishable by a fine up to \$500.00 for each violation.

To facilitate compliance with this requirement, CCA has produced a number of high-quality, 18" x 24" all-weather aluminum signs informing bull buyers of this provision. If you or your auction yard is currently a CCA member, please contact our office or utilize the enclosed order form to receive one of these signs at no charge. If you're not a CCA member, you can either utilize the enclosed order form to receive one or more of these signs for \$40.00 apiece, or use the enclosed membership application to become a regular or associate CCA member today. Once we receive your application, we'll send you one of these signs immediately. CCA staff and officers will also be on hand at the September 14, 2003 California Livestock Auction Market Association meeting at Harris Ranch to discuss current issues and distribute these signs and additional trichomonosis information. In addition, should you have any questions regarding trichomonosis or these signs, please do not hesitate to contact the CCA office.



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